

[English]

**Stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Allahabad**

2120 SHRI SHASHI PRAKASH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the stoppage of Howrah bound Rajdhani Express at Allahabad, and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN) (a) and (b) Stoppage of 2301/2302 Rajdhani Express from Allahabad is being withdrawn w e f 21/22-3-1992 due to poor patronisation

**Elephant Population**

2121 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the elephant population is decreasing in the country,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor

(c) the number of elephants living in different parts of the country,

(d) the action being taken to protect the elephants, and

(e) the details of projects formulated for the conservation of elephant population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) The estimated population of elephants in the country, region-wise is given in the enclosed statement

(d) The action taken to protect the elephants include

(i) Elephant is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act and the hunting as well as the trade in elephant and products derived from it including ivory are totally banned

(ii) Indian elephant is included in Appendix I of the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora", of which India is a Member, International trade in Indian ivory and articles made therefrom is totally banned under the provisions of the Convention

(iii) An amendment has been made in the Wild Life (Protection) Act to provide that trade in imported ivory is also banned from the date of expiry of 6 months of the commencing of Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 1991, which has been promulgated with effect from 2nd October 1991

(iv) The export of ivory and articles made therefrom is totally banned under the Export Policy

(v) Assistance is provided to State Governments to strengthen the anti-poaching infrastructure

From this year a Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled 'Project Elephant' has been launched and Rs 83 lakhs has already been released as assistance to State Governments for protection and conservation of elephant and its habitat

(e) The activities proposed under the 'Project Elephant' include:

- (i) Protection of all the viable populations and their habitats.
- (ii) Providing corridors linking different parts of the composite elephant range.
- (iii) Improving the quality of life of the people living in the fringe areas through appropriate eco-development programmes, so that their dependence on forests is minimised.
- (iv) Eradication of weeds like Miconia and Lantana and augmenting the number of fodder trees through appropriate plantation programmes.
- (v) Mitigating the problems being

caused by the isolated populations of elephant to the local people.

- (vi) Compensating people for loss of life and property caused by the elephants.
- (vii) Strengthening of anti-poaching infrastructure.
- (viii) Improved veterinary care and immunisation of domestic live-stock against communicable diseases.
- (ix) Restoring the feeling of compassion towards elephants through Education Campaign and Extension Programmes.
- (x) Scientific research on various aspects of management of elephants and their habitats.

#### STATEMENT

*The estimated population of elephants in India, region-wise is as under:*

<i>Name of the Region</i>	<i>Estimated elephants Population</i>
1. North-Eastern Region (West Bengal, Assam, Nagaland Meghalaya, Tripura).	8525 to 11930
2. Orissa and Bihar	2000 to 2300
3. Uttar Pradesh	550 to 700
4. Southern Region (Karnataka Kerala Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh)	6000 to 7150
	17,075 - 22,080

[Translation]

#### Purchasing of Books

2122. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Kitabon Ki khareed mein niyam tak par" appearing in the daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 13, 1992.

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been